

Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1. (currently amended) A seal element (1) for sealing a gap (5) between a first component (2) and a second component (3) spaced apart from each other, said the first component (2) having a first surface (9) and said the second component (3) having an opposing second surfaces (10), said the seal element (1) comprising:

a) a support structure (4), having at least two contacting members; and

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially said the support structure (4), wherein  
~~said support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting~~  
member (8) serves for putting a portion of the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the  
surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation and/or movement of said surface  
(9,10), characterised in that, and wherein that said the support structure (4) has a frame portion  
(7) to which said the contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending  
away from said the frame portion (7).

2. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 1, wherein said the sealing  
structure (6) comprises a web having metallic and/or ceramic fibres.

3. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 2, wherein said the sealing  
structure (6) comprises a ceramic fibre fabric, a ceramic fibre tape, a ceramic fibre sleeving or a  
ceramic fibre mat.

4. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claims 2 or 3, wherein said the sealing  
structure (6) comprises ceramic fibres consisting of Zr02, Si02 and/or Al2O3.

5. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 2, wherein said the sealing  
structure (6) comprises a metallic fibre fabric, a metallic fibre tape, a metallic fibre sleeving or a  
metallic fibre mat.

6. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the sealing structure (6) comprises metallic fibres consisting of a superalloy, in particular a nickel-based, a cobalt-based or ironbased superalloy.
7. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the sealing structure (6) is loosely connected to said support structure (4).
8. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the support structure (4) consists of a metal, in particular a sheet metal.
9. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the support structure (4) has a curved form, in particular is U-shaped, open-ring shaped or ring-shaped.
10. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the branch portion (21) and said the contacting member (8) are elastically deformable.
11. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the support structure (4) has at least two branch portions (21) with different length.
12. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, wherein said the branch portions (21) form together with a middle portion (36) a two-arm spring (34), which spring (34) is fastened to said frame portion (7) at said middle portion (36).
13. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to any of the preceding claims 1, further comprising a tightening member (20) for tightening said sealing structure (6) between two adjacent contacting members (8).
14. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 13, wherein said tightening member (20) comprises a spring member, in particular a spring ring.

15. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 for the use in a hot gas chamber (23) having a hot-gas flow region (11), said the hot gas chamber (23) having comprising:

a wall structure (13) surrounding said the hot-gas flow region (11) and comprising said the second component (3) having said the second surface (10), said the first component (2) being attached to said wall structure (13) and having said the ~~F~~irst surface (10), which is directed to the wall structure (13), wherein said the gap (5) is formed between said the first component (3) and said the second component (3), said the sealing structure (6) being in contact with said the second surfaces (10) of said the second component (3) and with said the first surface (9) of said the first component (2) thereby sealing said the gap (5).

16. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claim 15, wherein said the hot gas chamber (23) is a part of a combustion turbine (22), ~~in particular is a combustion chamber or a turbine section~~.

17. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to claims 15 or 16, wherein said the first component (2) is a heat shield element of a combustion chamber or a shroud element of a turbine section.

18. (currently amended) A Sseal element (1) according to anyone of the claims 1 to 14 for the use in a combustion turbine (22), the combustion turbine comprising:

a burner (41);

a turbine section (17) having a turbine inlet (44) for hot gas (24) to enter said the turbine section (17); and

a duct (43) connecting said the burner (41) to said the turbine section (17) for hot gas (24) to flow from said burner (41) to said turbine section (17), whereby said the first surface (9) is formed by said the turbine inlet (44) and said the second surface (10) by said the duct (43) in the vicinity of said the turbine inlet (44), with said the gap (5) between said the first surface (9) and said the second surface (10) sealed by said the seal element (1).

19. (currently amended) A combustion turbine (22), comprising:

a hot gas chamber (23) having a hot-gas flow region (11);

a wall structure (13) surrounding said the hot-gas flow region (11) and comprising at least one second component (3) having a second surface (10) directed to said the hot-gas flow region (11);

at least one first component (2) being attached to said the wall structure (13) and having a first surface (9), which is directed to the wall structure (13);

a gap (5) formed between said the first component (2) and said the second component (3);

a seal element (1) for sealing said gap (5) said the seal element (1) comprising:

a) a support structure (4);

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially said the support structure (4), wherein said the support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting member (8) puts a portion of said the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation of said the surface (9,10), characterised in that, wherein that said the support structure (4) has a frame portion (7) to which said the contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending away from said frame portion (7).

20. (currently amended) A combustion turbine (22) comprising:

a burner (41);

a turbine section (17) having a turbine inlet (44) for hot gas (24) to enter said the turbine section (17);

a duct (43) connecting said the burner (41) to said the turbine section (17) for hot gas (24) to flow from said the burner (41) to said the turbine section (17), whereby a first surface (9) is formed by said the turbine inlet (44) and a second surface (10) by said the duct (43) in the vicinity of said the turbine inlet (44), so that a gap (5) is formed between said the first surface (9) and said the second surface (10); and

a seal element for sealing the which gap (5) is sealed by a seal element (1); said the seal element (1) comprises:

a) a support structure (4);

b) a sealing structure (6) covering at least partially said the support structure (4), wherein said the support structure (4) comprises at least two contacting members (8), each contacting member (8) puts a portion of said the sealing structure (6) in contact with one of the surfaces (9,10) and being capable of following a deformation of said surface (9,10), characterised in that, that said wherein the support structure (4) has a frame portion (7) to which said the contacting members (8) is connected via a branch portion (21) extending away from said frame portion (7).

21. (currently amended) A ~~E~~combustion turbine (22) according to claims 19 ~~or~~ 20, wherein said the seal element (1) comprises a curved frame portion (7) from which said the contacting members (8) are spaced apart and each contacting member (8) being connected to said the frame portion (7) via a branch portion (21).

22. (currently amended) A ~~E~~combustion turbine (22) according to ~~anyone of the~~ claims 19 to 21, wherein said the seal element (1) is surrounded by said the sealing structure (6) being a sleeving.